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THE NEW AVENGERS

REVOLUTION
PART ONE

PREVIOUSLY...

After being recruited by Captain America, Maya Lopez--the deaf woman also known as Echo--was dispatched to Japan to keep an eye on the growing threat of the Japanese underworld. Maya adopted the identity of Ronin, a male ninja, and began her fight against the Yakuza. After a brief meeting with the Avengers, Maya stayed behind in Japan while the rest of the team returned to the United States.

Now, as American super heroes fight each other over the Superhuman Registration Act, Maya realizes that she is alone, abandoned in a country that is not her own.

Writer: Brian Michael Bendis
Artist: Leinil Yu
Color Art: Dave McCaig
Letterer: RS & Comicraft's Albert Deschesne

Production: Brad Johansen
Assistant Editors: Molly Lazer & Aubrey Sitterson
Editor: Tom Brevoort
Editor in Chief: Joe Quesada
Publisher: Dan Buckley

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Ronin
From: "Maya Lopez"
To: "Matt Murdock"
Subject: Ronin
Hello, Matt. This is Maya Lopez.
I know it's a surprise to hear from me like this...
...especially with what's gone on in the world and in your life.
And how things were left between us...
But if you're reading this, I'm probably dead.

First I must tell you exactly what I've been doing with my life and why.
I know you've heard rumors.
I think you'll understand the **why** better than anyone...
...but the **what** is important.
A month ago you sent Captain America to recruit my help in infiltrating the Japanese underworld so the Avengers could piece together what was going on over here--
--and how it would affect the world.
You sent Captain America to me!
I think about this every day.
You clearly think more of me than I thought you did. Frankly, I'm not sure why.
But I thought long and hard about how to do what was asked of me.
I thought about your double life as Daredevil.
I thought about how no one, until recently, would even suspect a blind lawyer from Hell's Kitchen to be this vigilante force of nature, Daredevil.
I thought about the symbol of Daredevil and the simplicity of the disguise...
...and the legend it created the very first time you put on that uniform.

That's how **Ronin** was born.

The Tokyo nightlife is filled with two things.
Gangsters blowing off steam on a drug and alcohol fueled nightlife binge--
--that they think actually fills the hole in their soul created by days of dishonor and betrayal--
--and rich, vacant heiresses--the baby rich--who pride themselves on serving absolutely no purpose in the world.
I realized that the best disguise, the best double life, the only one I could think of that was even more ingenious than yours...
...would be vacant, anonymous party girl by night...
...Ronin by late night.
No one looks at the girls. They're just objects.
I could just sit there, like a piece of giggling furniture, and eavesdrop and upload every single piece of information these weak-willed, bragging, spineless Yakuza wannabe #$%^s say...
...and when it's time...
...use it.
Not as Echo, not as Maya Lopez, but as someone they don't know, someone they couldn't trace back.
As a man.
As a figure of the shadows.
As you.
BAM
CRACK

HULK
POWER PACK

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Will the Hulk play nice with the Power kids?

Marc Sumerak
Paul Tobin
David Williams
Chris Giarrusso

MARCH 2007

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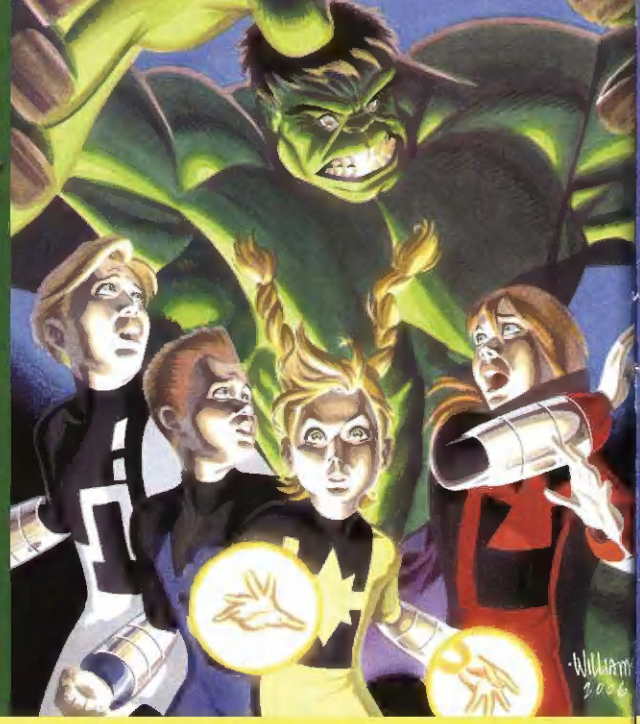

FRANKLIN RICHARDS
SON OF A GENIUS
March Madness

"This book is funny."

– Reed Richards, professional intelligent guy

Marc Sumerak

Chris Eliopoulos

MARCH 2007

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(Berry-Berry happy)

(Berry-Berry sad)

Slow go on the Yogos™

New Berry-Berry Banana
The fruity creamy taste you love so much, you hate when it's gone.

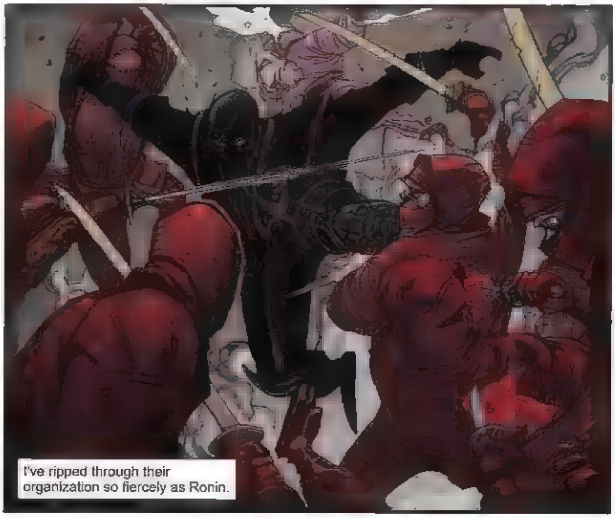
And when the idiots talk of Ronin, they wonder if it's someone new or maybe it's one of the American heroes who has run away from the Civil War.
They wonder: maybe he's Daredevil, maybe he's Iron Fist, maybe he's Nick Fury.
And I love it!

But the point of all of this was to report back to the Avengers.
To work **with** the Avengers on taking this all down from the top soon as I had a clear picture of what was going on in the upper echelons of the underworld in this part of the world.
But all that went to hell because all of your friends started beating each other up.
The world watched in amazement as America's heroes ripped themselves to shreds.

I watched in horror.
Who were my friends now? Who do I go to when I'm ready?
Captain America recruited me, but Iron Man offered to stake me.
Who do I go to? What side am I on?
Essentially, I found myself stuck out here.
They left me.

What side was I on?
I couldn't help but think that, if Tony Stark lived here, in this country, I'd probably have already targeted him as a war profiteer.
Seeing him as I do now, I think I hate him.
If he lived here I would have already sabotaged his tin can suit and probably sicced the Avengers on him.
But I can't get to the Avengers--
--I don't know if there are Avengers anymore.
Then I said: No!
You don't go to anyone, why do I have to?
I can do this.
So I went about doing this all by myself.
But as I said, if you're getting this e-mail...
...then I have failed.

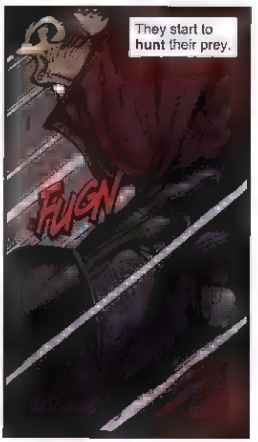
Or I ran into trouble that I could not fight my way out of.
HA!
CLANG
AAAIIEE!
SLICCEE
YAGH!
GGLLFFDD!
SLICCEE
I know it's arrogant to think this...
FLUMP
But the only thing in Japan I can imagine that could find me and take me down is the clan of assassins known as the Hand.
And their new leader...
...your ex-girlfriend...
Elektra.


I've ripped through their organization so fiercely as Ronin.

I've killed as many of them as I could.
CLANG

It's the only language they respect and understand.
SPACK

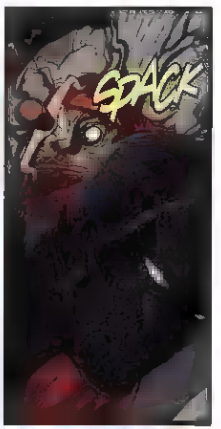
But you know as well as I, they don't take it kindly or lightly.
CRACK


They start to **hunt** their prey.
FUGN

And they come after them with an army mentality.
SPAK

An army of assassins.

SHUNK


SPACK

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life

loud

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I've never fought Elektra.
As much as I pray for a warrior's death...
...I hope it wasn't her who took me down.
I hope I honored my family.
And I hope I honored you.
CRASH
AGH!
I so hope it wasn't her.
HYAAH!
CLANG

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SPAK
AGH!
SMACK
SMACK
SPAK

"Civil War is intriguing because of its pointed, direct allegorical exploration of a question that faces us in the pervasive era of surveillance, detention and the Patriot Act."
- *The Miami Herald*

CIVIL WAR #7

Whose side are you on?

THE FINAL BATTLE

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SHUCK

BACK IN BLACK

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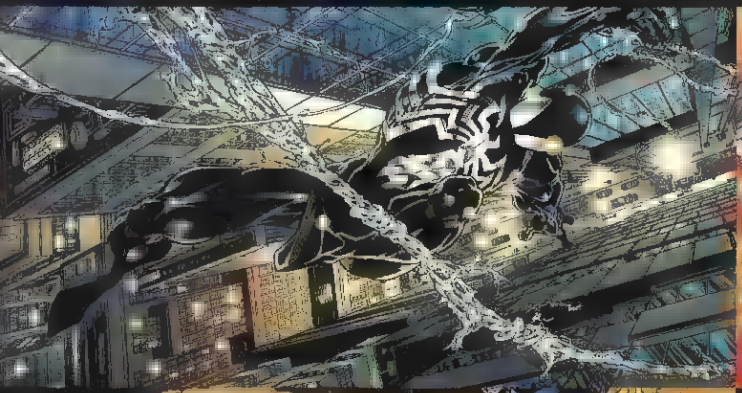
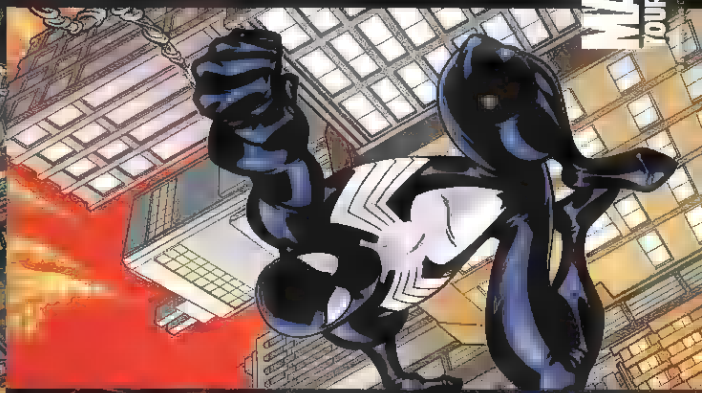
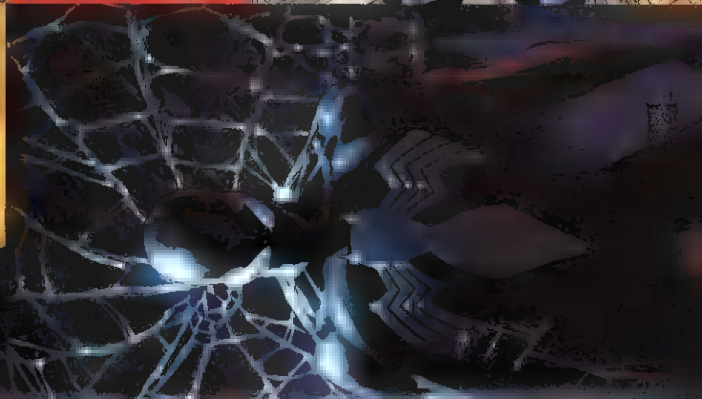
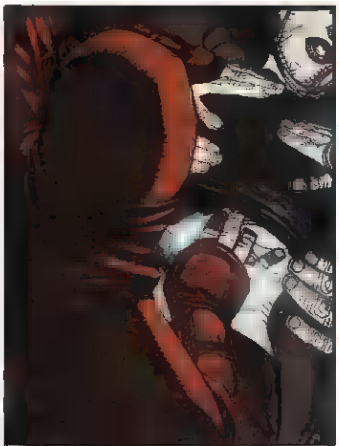
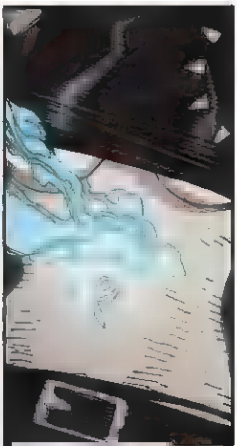


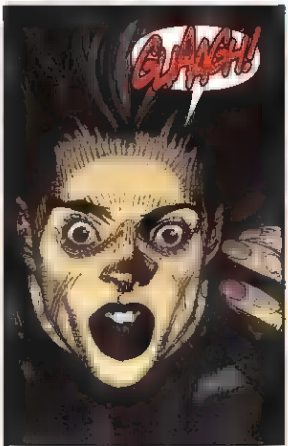




BRING HER BACK. WE NEED HER.
SHE'S OF VALUE TO US.



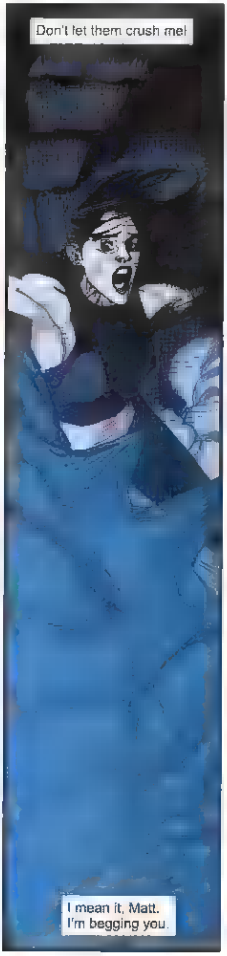


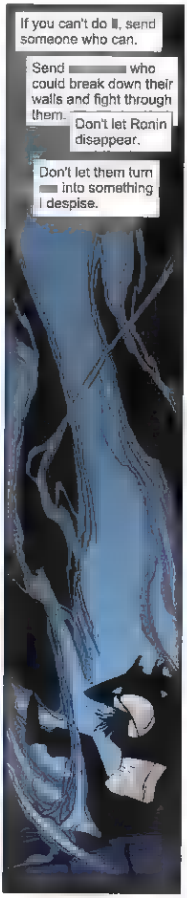

GUHGH!

MAYA, I KNOW YOU CAN'T HEAR ME, BUT I WANT YOU TO LOOK AT ME AND SEE ME SAY THIS TO YOU.
IT WAS AN HONOR TO FIGHT YOU.
IT WILL BE AN HONOR TO FIGHT ALONGSIDE YOU...
...ONCE YOU'RE READY.
NUH!
AAAGH!
FLUMP
AS YOU KNOW, MAYA...
...THE WAYS OF THE HAND DATE BACK HUNDREDS OF YEARS.
A CODE OF HONOR AND WARRIOR WAYS THAT HAVE SURVIVED THROUGH ALL OF THIS WORLD'S STRUGGLES.
AND YOU ARE A GREAT WARRIOR WITH NO FOCUS OR PURPOSE.
OUR WAYS WILL DEFINE YOU AND THE NEXT PHASE OF YOUR LIFE.
YOU'LL BE PART OF SOMETHING TRULY... PROFOUND.

Don't let them take me, Matt.
If they have me, come and kill me.
Don't let them use me, Matt.
Don't let them use their mysticism and mind games on me.
Don't let them brainwash me.
I can't fight that. I don't have the training.
AGH!
And even though I'll know it's a trick or drugs or hypnotism...
...it won't help me...

...it'll only make it worse


Don't let them crush me!
I mean it, Matt. I'm begging you.


If you can't do [redacted], send someone who can.
Send [redacted] who could break down their walls and fight through them.
Don't let Ronin disappear.
Don't let them turn [redacted] into something I despise.

IF THE SCROLLS SAY THREE DAYS THEN THREE DAYS SHOULD BE--
And if they've killed me...
...avenge me.

His soul locked in perpetual servitude, Johnny Blaze lights up the night skies as as his alter ego, the Ghost Rider.
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YAY! NINJAS!
I LOVE NINJAS!
YOU SAID YOU HATED NINJAS.
AH, LOGAN, THAT WAS BEFORE THE HOUSE OF M AND OUR LITTLE CIVIL WAR.
IN RETROSPECT, I KINDA LIKE JUST FIGHTING NINJAS.
I KINDA LIKE THE MATCHING OUTFITS.
MAYBE WE SHOULD GET MATCHING OUTFITS.
OH! CAN WE ALL DRESS LIKE DOCTOR STRANGE? THEN I'M IN.
AND I'M OUT.
PARTY POOPER.
DON'T SAY POOPER.
HAAGSHH!
YO, CAGE, DO THEY ALWAYS TALK THIS MUCH DURING A FIGHT?
UH, YES, ACTUALLY.
YEAH, I DIDN'T KNOW THERE WAS BANTER INVOLVED. I DON'T DO BANTER.
YOU'RE DOING BANTER NOW, FIST.
NO, I'M NOT.
I DIDN'T SAY IT WAS GOOD BANTER.
SPIDEY, GET BACK.
GOT IT.
(AW, HE CALLED ME SPIDEY.)
NOTE TO SELF: GET AN IRON FIST.
FOOM
AND WHAT ARE YOU DOING EXACTLY?
IT'S A SIMPLE SERIES OF TRANSIENT SPELLS.
IT MAKES THEM SLEEP AND CRY FOR THEIR MOTHERS.
YOU SHOULD TRY HITTING, HITTING IS FUN.
HUUAGH!
TNG
UNBREAKABLE SKIN, TOOTS.
WE'LL SEE.
ELEKTRA, RIGHT?
LUKE CAGE.
RRRR... I GOT A MESSAGE FROM MATT MURDOCK.
YEAH?
HE TOLD ME, IF I SEE YOU, TO GIVE YOU THIS...

FOOM
OOF!
THAT HAD TO HURT!
DON'T SCREW AROUND! WE GOTTA KEEP MOVING.
DO LIKE WE SAID.
OKAY, OKAY. JEEZ...
HI. MY NAME IS LUKE SKYWALKER AND I'M HERE TO RESCUE YOU.
(SORRY, I ALWAYS WANTED TO SAY THAT.)
COME ON, ALL THE COOL AVENGERS ARE HERE. CAN YOU READ MY LIPS?
MATT MURDOCK SENT US TO GET YOU AND WE GOT YOU, SO LET'S...
THE AVENGERSSS BROKE UP.
I KNOW...
THISSS IS A TRICK...
WE'RE THE NEW NEW AVENGERS.
COME ON...
NOOO...
I PROMISE I'M HERE TO HELP YOU.
(MAN, WHAT DID THEY DO TO YOU?)

YOU KNOW WHAT YOU NEED? A CHICK FIL-A NUGGETS COMBO MEAL.
WE'LL GET YOU BACK TO THE STATES AND THAT'S THE FIRST THING WE'LL GET YOU...
GOT HER!
THEN LET'S GO!
BUT WE JUST GOT HERE!
DOCTOR, Y'READY?
COME TO ME, AVENGERS.
DANNY!
I'M ON IT.
MATT?
NOT EXACTLY.
WHO *ARE* YOU?

KRA
KOOM
YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO.
THEY DO *NOT* LEAVE JAPAN.
TO BE CONTINUED...
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